

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2008. The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement, dividing the claims into 4 Groups as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-6, 19-20, 22-24, 26-27, in part, drawn to methods for detecting GTM oligonucleotides;
- Group II: Claims 1-2, 7-12, 19-21, 25-27, in part, drawn to methods for detecting GTM proteins;
- Group III: Claims 13-18, in part, drawn to devices for detecting GTM oligonucleotides; and
- Group IV: Claims 13, 15-16 and 18, in part, drawn to devices for detecting GTM proteins.

Applicant herein elects Group II claims 1-2, 7-12, 19-21 and 25-27 and withdraws claims drawn to methods and devices for detecting GTM oligonucleotides (Groups I and III), and devices for detecting GTM proteins (Group IV). The claims remaining in this application are drawn to methods for detecting GTM proteins or peptides in Group II. Claims overlapping in Groups I and II have been amended to delete subject matter of Group I.

The Examiner also issued a second Restriction Requirement, requiring election of a single species of GTM. Applicant herein elects cystatin SN as the single species of GTM, and the independent claims, Claims 1, 19 and 20 have been amended to reflect this election.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and has been amended to include the GTM proteins disclosed in Figures 2 and 3. New claims 28-30 depend from Claim 1 and have been added to claim subsets of the GTM proteins claimed in Claim 2. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into this application by any of these amendments.

Although Applicants have withdrawn claims in Group IV drawn to devices for detecting GTM proteins, Applicants respectfully request that certain claims in this Group IV be rejoined upon allowance of methods claims in Group II.

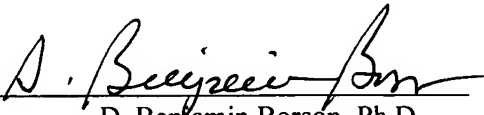
Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent claims drawn to the elected Group and the elected species cystatin SN, and the remaining claims (2, 8-12, 21, and 25-30) each reads upon the elected Group II and the elected species cystatin SN.

A Petition for Extension of Time and the required fee is included herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct from or refund funds to Deposit Account 50-4089 for any additional fee related to this Reply.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2008

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